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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 73rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 23 November 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria)

- Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States: report of the Sixth Committee [125]

- Status of the protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts: report of the Sixth Committee [126]

- Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives: report of the Sixth Committee [127]

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- United Nations Decade of International Law: report of the Sixth Committee [128]

- Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fourth session: report of the Sixth Committee [129]

- Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property: report of the Sixth Committee [130]

- Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fifth session: report of the Sixth Committee [131]

- Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto: report of the Sixth Committee [132]

- Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country: report of the Sixth Committee [133]

- Additional Protocol on Consular Functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations: report of the Sixth Committee [134]

- Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict: report of the Sixth Committee [135]

- Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice: report of the Sixth Committee [136]

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  (a) Report of the Sixth Committee

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- Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic [26]

  (a) Report of the Secretary-General

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- Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan: draft resolution [141]

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 125 to 136, AND 151

OBSERVER STATUS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND/OR BY THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/580)

STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/581)

CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/582)

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/583)

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/584)

CONVENTION ON JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITIES OF STATES AND THEIR PROPERTY: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/585)

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/586)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES ON THE STATUS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COURIER AND THE DIPLOMATIC BAG NOT ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC COURIER AND OF THE DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS THERETO: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/587)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/589)

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL ON CONSULAR FUNCTIONS TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/590)

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/591)

REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/713)

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

(a) REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/47/588)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/47/714)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Sixth Committee on agenda items 125 to 136, and 151.

In view of the desire of Member States to dispose of all reports of the Sixth Committee at one time and expeditiously, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 151 at this meeting, notwithstanding rule 15 of the rules of procedure, which provides that seven days should have elapsed since the item was placed on the agenda?

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Wael Kamal Aboulmagd of Egypt, to introduce the reports of the Sixth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. ABOULMAGD (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: I have the honour of presenting to the General Assembly the reports of the Sixth Committee on its work on the 13 agenda items allocated to it at this session. The reports are contained in documents A/47/580 to A/47/591 and A/47/713.

Before introducing each of these reports in the order in which they appear in the Journal, I would like to make a few general remarks. The constructive atmosphere which has characterized the deliberations in the Sixth Committee during the last few years prevailed this year as well - and even to a greater extent. Thus the Committee succeeded in adopting a record number of 12 resolutions and decisions out of 13 without a vote.

(Mr. Aboulmagd, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

Participants in the work of the Committee at this session will agree that the Chairman of the Committee has greatly contributed to this success. Congratulations are also in order for the Chairmen of the two Working Groups established by the Sixth Committee at this session, namely, the Chairman of the Working Group on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property and the Chairman of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law, as well as to the Chairman of the informal consultations on the additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Chairman of the informal consultations on the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto.

I shall now introduce the reports of the Sixth Committee beginning with document A/47/580, containing the report submitted under agenda item 125, entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is contained in paragraph 9 of the report.

The draft resolution recalls, in its preambular part, the resolution of the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations relating to the observer status of national liberation movements and the current practice of inviting these movements to participate as observers in the work of international organizations. The General Assembly would, under the operative part of the draft resolution, urge all States that have not yet done so, to consider the question of becoming a party to the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal

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Character and to accord to the delegations of the above-mentioned national liberation movements the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their functions.

The Sixth Committee adopted this draft resolution by a recorded vote of 61 to 9, with 28 abstentions.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee before the Assembly in document A/47/581, submitted under agenda item 126, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 8 of the report.

Under the terms of the preambular part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would note with satisfaction that the International Fact-Finding Commission pursuant to article 90 of Additional Protocol I had become operational. It would also stress the need for consolidating and implementing the existing body of international humanitarian law and for the universal acceptance of such law. Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, note that in comparison with the Geneva Conventions the number of States parties to the two additional Protocols is still limited. The General Assembly would, accordingly, appeal to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so, to consider becoming parties also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date. It would further call upon States to consider making the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

(Mr. Aboulmagd, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee contained in document A/47/582, submitted under agenda item 127, entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 8 of the report.

Under the terms of the preambular part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would express its concern at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, and also at the abuse of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities, particularly if acts of violence are involved. By operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly would strongly condemn acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and would emphasize that such acts can never be justified. By operative paragraph 9 the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to issue an annual report containing information based on the reporting procedure established by relevant General Assembly resolutions, concerning violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

The draft resolution was adopted in the Sixth Committee without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee before members in document A/47/583, submitted under agenda item 128, entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee

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recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 10 of the report.

The preambular part of the draft resolution recalls the four main purposes of the Decade, namely the promotion of acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law; the promotion of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice; the encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification; the encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, adopt the programme for the second term (1993-1994) of the United Nations Decade of International Law annexed to the resolution. It would also invite all States, and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme, to undertake the relevant activities outlined therein and, as appropriate, to submit reports to the Secretary-General. This information would be included in the report of the Secretary-General requested by operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. The Secretary-General would be further requested to supplement his report on the activities of the United Nations relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification, with new information, on an annual basis. The Assembly would, moreover, request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session the plan referred to in section V, paragraph 3, of the programme for the second term of the Decade on the question of a possible United Nations congress on public international law.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

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I now turn to item 129, "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fourth session". The relevant report of the Sixth Committee is to be found in document A/47/584. The Sixth Committee devoted 12 meetings to this important item. The draft resolution it recommends the General Assembly for adoption is to be found in paragraph 8 of that document. Under that draft resolution, the Assembly would, inter alia, express its appreciation to the Commission for the work accomplished at its forty-fourth session and recommend that the Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme. The Assembly would also take note with appreciation of chapter II of the report devoted to the question of the possible establishment of an international criminal jurisdiction; invite States to submit written comments on that question; and request the Commission to continue its work on the question by undertaking the project for the elaboration of a draft statute for an international criminal court as a matter of priority as from its next session, beginning with the examination of the issues identified in the report of the Working Group and in the debate in the Sixth Committee, with a view to drafting a statute on the basis of the report of the Working Group.

May I also take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Assembly, first, to paragraph 12 of the draft resolution inviting States to submit their views on two sets of draft articles provisionally adopted by the International Law Commission at its forty-third session and, secondly, to paragraph 13 whereby the Assembly would appeal to States that can do so to make the voluntary contributions that are urgently needed for the holding of seminars in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution I have just referred to without a vote. I hope the Assembly will find it possible to do likewise.

(Mr. Aboulmagd, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

With respect to item 130, "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property", the Sixth Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/55, entrusted an open-ended working group with the task of examining, on the one hand, issues of substance arising out of the draft articles adopted on the matter by the International Law Commission in 1991, and on the other hand, the question of the convening of an international conference to conclude a convention on the subject.

In its report to the Sixth Committee, the Working Group indicated that, although none of the compromise proposals that had been submitted to it had as yet elicited general support, the exchange of views that had taken place at the current session had contributed to the clarification of existing positions. The Sixth Committee accordingly recommends in its report to the General Assembly (A/47/585) that the Assembly should adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of that same document, whereby the Assembly would take note of the report of the Working Group and decide to re-establish the Working Group at the forty-eighth session with the same mandate. The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote, and I hope it will also be adopted without a vote by the Assembly.

The next report of the Sixth Committee for me to introduce is contained in document A/47/586, submitted under agenda item 131, entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on the work of its twenty-fifth session". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

Under the preamble of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reaffirm its conviction that the progressive harmonization and unification of

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international trade law would significantly contribute to universal economic cooperation among all States and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to the well-being of all peoples. It would also express its concern about the relatively low incidence of expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the Commission and its working groups, due in part to inadequate resources to finance the travel of such experts. Under the operative part, the General Assembly would, among other things, take note with particular satisfaction of the completion and adoption by the Commission of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers and of the UNCITRAL Legal Guide on International Countertrade Transactions. The Assembly would also reaffirm the mandate of the Commission and the importance, in particular for developing countries, of its work concerned with training and assistance in the field of international trade law. The Assembly would further express its appreciation to the Commission for organizing, as a contribution to the activities of the United Nations Decade of International Law, a Congress under the theme "Uniform commercial law in the twenty-first century", during the last week of its twenty-fifth session. The Assembly would, moreover, request the Fifth Committee to continue to consider granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, as well as, on an exceptional basis, to other developing countries members of the Commission, to participate in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups. The Assembly would further recommend that the Commission rationalize the organization of its work and consider, in particular, the holding of consecutive meetings of its working groups.

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The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I now turn to item 132, "Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto". The report of the Sixth Committee on this item is in document A/47/587. The informal consultations initiated in 1990 and resumed in 1991 on this item continued at the current session but were inconclusive. The Sixth Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report on this year's informal consultations and decide to include the item in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session. The draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee, in paragraph 10 of document A/47/587, was adopted without a vote, and I hope it will be possible for the Assembly to act likewise.

I turn next to document A/47/588 containing the report of the Sixth Committee submitted under agenda item 133, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization". The draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee will hold its next session from 1 to 19 March 1993, so as to carry out its mandate regarding the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of the role of the Organization and the enhancement of its effectiveness, as spelled out in operative paragraph 3. The Assembly would further request the Special Committee to be mindful of the

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importance of reaching general agreement whenever that has significance for the outcome of its work.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

May I now turn to the report (A/47/589) of the Sixth Committee submitted under agenda item 134, entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country". The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption the resolution reproduced in paragraph 7 of the report.

Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would, inter alia, endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and express the hope that the host country will continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions. It would also urge the host country to continue to bear in mind its obligations to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations and the missions accredited to it. The Assembly would request the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I shall now turn to document A/47/590, which contains the report of the Sixth Committee submitted under agenda item 135, entitled "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations" . The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report.

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Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would note with appreciation the valuable work done during the last three sessions of the General Assembly on the basis of the proposal concerning the elaboration of an additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; it would also urge States, in applying the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and corresponding provisions of other agreements, to accord full facilities to consular officers in the performance of their functions; the Assembly would finally take note of the report of the Sixth Committee on the matter.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

I shall now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee contained in document A/47/591, submitted under agenda item 136, entitled "Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict". The draft resolution which the Sixth Committee recommended to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 10 of the report.

Under the terms of the preambular part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would stress that destruction of the environment, not justified by military necessity and carried out wantonly, is clearly contrary to existing international law. Under the operative part of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would urge States to take all measures to ensure compliance with the existing international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. It would also appeal to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions. The Assembly would further urge States to take necessary measures to ensure that they are effectively

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disseminated. It would finally request the Secretary-General to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to report on activities undertaken by the Committee and other relevant bodies in the field.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, and I hope that the Assembly will do the same.

Lastly, I shall introduce the report of the Sixth Committee on item 151, entitled "Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice", which is before the Assembly in document A/47/713. The draft decision which the Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption is reproduced in paragraph 7 of the report.

(Mr. Aboulmagd, Rapporteur, Sixth Committee)

Under the terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide to continue its consideration of this item and, further, to place this item on the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session.

That concludes my presentation of the reports of the Sixth Committee. I may have unduly taxed the patience of the Assembly, but I hope that delegations will agree that the work and the achievements of the Sixth Committee at this session deserved an item-by-item presentation, no matter how sketchy.

Before I leave the rostrum, I should like to take the opportunity to pay a special tribute to all those who contributed to the success of the work of the Sixth Committee at the forty-seventh session.

First of all, I wish to congratulate all representatives and colleagues in the Sixth Committee, who demonstrated their high professional skills and their willingness to cooperate in reaching mutually satisfactory solutions. I should like to address a special word of thanks to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Javad Zarif, whose diplomatic skills and patience helped the Committee conduct its deliberations efficiently and in a business-like manner. The Chairman was assisted by two able Vice-Chairmen, Ms. Maria del Juján Flores and Mr. Peter Tomka, with whom, in my capacity as Rapporteur, I had the honour to serve in the Bureau of the Committee.

A special word of thanks goes also to the Legal Counsel, Mr. Carl-August Fleischhauer, and to Mr. Vladimir Kotliar, Secretary of the Committee; the two Deputy Secretaries, Ms. Jacqueline Dauchy and Mr. Andronico Adede; and all the staff of the Codification Division who provided such dedicated service to the Committee.

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My thanks go also to all the interpreters, translators, conference officers and documents officers who contributed to the work of the Committee and to its successful conclusion.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Sixth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Sixth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee." (decision 34/401, para. 7)

I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sixth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat that they wish to do

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otherwise, we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Sixth Committee. This means that where a recorded vote was taken, we will do the same. I would also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Sixth Committee.

We shall first consider the report (A/47/580) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 125, "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine

The draft resolution was adopted by 100 votes to 9, with 34 abstentions (resolution 47/29).*

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude our consideration of agenda item 125?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the Assembly to turn its attention now to the report (A/47/581) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 126, "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/30).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the report (A/47/582) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 127, "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

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* Subsequently, the delegations of Bangladesh, Mauritius and Vanuatu advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; the delegations of Belarus and Samoa had intended to abstain.

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee contained in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/31).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the report (A/47/583) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 128, "United Nations Decade of International Law".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/32).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 128?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will consider next the report (A/47/584) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 129, "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fourth session".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/33).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 129?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I request the Assembly to turn its attention now to the report (A/47/585) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 130, "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

(The President)

The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 130?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to the report (A/47/586) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 131, "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fifth session".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

The Sixth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/34).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 131?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report (A/47/587) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 132, "Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 132?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to the report (A/47/589) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 134, "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of the report.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/35).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 134?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will turn next to the report (A/47/590) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 135, "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of the report.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/36).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 135?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report (A/47/591) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 136, "Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/37).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 136?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will consider next the report (A/47/713) of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 151, "Request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Sixth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 151?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to the report of the Sixth Committee (A/47/588) on agenda item 133, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 9 of that report. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/47/714.

The Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/38).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 133?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Sixth Committee.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has now concluded its consideration of the reports of the Fourth and Sixth Committees.

I should now like to make an announcement concerning the reports of the other Main Committees.

The General Assembly will consider those reports on the following dates: First Committee reports on Wednesday, 9 December, in the afternoon; Special Political Committee reports on Friday, 11 December, in the afternoon; Third Committee reports on Monday, 14 December, in the afternoon; and Second and Fifth Committee reports on Friday, 18 December, in the afternoon.

(The President)

I should like to remind members that the General Assembly will take up the report of the First Committee on agenda item 60, "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", as the first item on Monday, 30 November, in the morning.

I should further like to remind members that, in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, the Assembly is scheduled to recess on Friday, 18 December.

AGENDA ITEM 26

ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/47/424 and Add.1-3)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.24)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Nigeria, who will introduce draft resolution A/47/L.24 in the course of his statement.

Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation welcomes the positive developments that have taken place on the international scene during the past two years. Those developments, which relate to matters of international peace and security, disarmament, development and the environment, will no doubt contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the 1986 declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Prominent among those developments are the end of the cold war, a movement from confrontation to cooperation between East and West, a breakdown of ideological rivalry between those two blocs, and incipient attempts to define and establish a new world order. It is our expectation that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which was conceived as an initiative within the ambit of South-South cooperation, will also benefit from the understanding and the cooperation of the North.

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

"An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277), proposed recently by the Secretary-General, which continues to be the subject of debate and consideration by the General Assembly, has, as expected, prescriptive relevance for the countries of the South Atlantic in their pursuit of the goal of peace and security for the zone, which in turn represents a vital component of the global quest for international peace and security. In that connection, my delegation thinks it fit and proper to suggest that progress towards nuclear non-proliferation in the region of the South Atlantic has not only engendered confidence among States of the zone, but has also had a salutary effect on the progressive development and concretization of the new international climate.

In that regard we welcome particularly South Africa's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its agreement to subject its nuclear facilities and programmes to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That development brightens the prospect for a nuclear-weapon-free African continent.

On the Latin American side of the zone, Argentina and Brazil have taken the laudable initiative of agreeing to submit their nuclear programmes to IAEA safeguards inspection, thus declaring their peaceful intentions and facilitating the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean - originally the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Conceived also as a bridge between African and Latin American countries of the South Atlantic, the zone of peace and cooperation has, from its inception, devoted particular attention to the protection of the environment, with special emphasis on the marine environment and the enhancement of

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

knowledge of its resources as a factor for intensifying economic cooperation and social development.

At both the first and the second meetings of the zone, held respectively at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and at Abuja, Nigeria, the protection of the environment was high on the agenda. At those meetings, the States of the zone expressed their concern over the continued deterioration of the environment at the global level, and affirmed their support for a global approach that recognized the development needs of States of the zone. They therefore looked forward to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as an opportunity to address the problem of the environment in all its ramifications.

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

The adoption of Agenda 21 in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 fulfilled this expectation. It is hoped that this valuable document will constitute a guide to the States of the zone in their regional action to attain sustainable development. We draw attention in particular to the Agenda's chapter 17, which deals with the protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas and coastal areas as well as with the rational use and development of their living resources. The judicious management of the environment will lend support and additional meaning to the cooperation already embarked upon by the States of the zone.

As delegations are aware, cooperation in the region extends to all possible spheres, including political, economic, social and cultural. With the initiative taken by the Namibian Government to act as host to a meeting of Ministers of Trade and Industry of the countries of the zone in the first half of 1993, cooperation in the area of trade and industry will receive a boost in furthering the objectives of the zone that will have positive implications for South-South cooperation. It is anticipated that additional initiatives will be taken by other Member States to further the purpose of the zone and to enhance mutual cooperation between them.

The political import of the hosting of the forthcoming meeting of the zone Trade Ministers by Namibia, the newest member of the zone, cannot be underestimated. We wish to share with Namibia and the rest of the international community this feeling of great achievement at seeing that dear country assuming and consolidating its place in the comity of nations. It is indeed a reason to encourage the United Nations not to relent in its efforts as the international community looks to it to ensure the complete transition of South Africa to a non-racial democratic society. In this connection the

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

States members of the zone are following with great interest the evolving situation and developments in South Africa. We hope that those developments will achieve the desired objective and that we may be able to welcome in the near future a non-racial South Africa into the community of the South Atlantic States.

The conflicts in Angola and Liberia, however, constitute a sad chapter in the development efforts of the region. These conflicts, which have led to the loss of many lives and wanton destruction of property, must be promptly and effectively contained and resolved to ensure that every member of the zone is able to contribute its quota to and derive maximum benefit from the regional association. We therefore express our support for the efforts that have and will be undertaken by the United Nations, by the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and by other organizations to end all hostilities in the two countries and enable them to pursue reconstruction rehabilitation and development in peace.

On 27 October 1986, when it adopted resolution 41/11, the General Assembly took an important step that today has borne fruit in the enhancement of international cooperation and further stability in the region. The Assembly, I believe, shares the satisfaction of the States of the South Atlantic in that regard. Here today we wish to commend the support we have enjoyed from the international community in fulfilling the objectives of the zone. The annual resolution of the General Assembly receives ever-increasing support from the States Members of the United Nations, illustrating broad confidence in our efforts to fulfil the objectives of the zone.

In its capacity as current coordinator of the zone, Nigeria seizes this opportunity to thank all Member States for their noble support and

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

encouragement, as well as the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their assistance in implementing the pertinent General Assembly resolutions on the zone. In this connection we should like to mention in particular the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Development Programme, which have rendered assistance in organizing zonal seminars. We look forward to similar assistance as well as to the other technical assistance necessary to further the implementation of zonal projects in the areas of, inter alia, communication, energy, water-resources management, environmental protection and management of toxic and hazardous chemicals and wastes. The zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic is a vibrant instrument for promoting South-South cooperation. It should be assisted to become a viable mechanism for enhancing global security and achieving sustainable development.

Permit me at this stage to introduce, on behalf of the States members of the zone, draft resolution A/47/L.24 on agenda item 26, "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

The draft resolution, in its preambular paragraphs, recalls some important elements in last year's resolution 46/19. In its operative part, it recalls some important developments in 1992.

For example, it makes reference to the joint Argentine-Brazilian-Chilean initiatives aimed at the full implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio, and the valuable instruments on climate change and biological diversity that were concluded at that Conference. The draft resolution further draws attention to the situations in South Africa, Angola and Liberia, expresses the hope for a quick and desirable dénouement to those conflict

(Mr. Ayewah, Nigeria)

situations and calls for increased humanitarian assistance to Liberia and Angola in order to mitigate human suffering. Finally, the draft resolution notes with satisfaction the initiative of the Namibian Government to host a meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry of the countries of the zone in 1993 and requests the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations to render all necessary assistance to the efforts aimed at further implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

This year's draft resolution continues the positive mode of enunciating the objectives, hopes and aspirations of the States members of the zone. It takes into consideration the various perspectives that continue to enjoy global consensus in order to qualify for the continued firm support of the international community. At the same time, it takes care not to lose sight of issues that have great relevance to the achievement of the purposes and objectives of the zone.

The States members of the zone, which are also the sponsors of draft resolution A/47/L.24, are pleased to commend it to the General Assembly for adoption without a vote when a decision on it is taken in the next few days.

Mr. ADOUKI (Congo) (interpretation from French): As we consider agenda item 26, I wonder what other possible name and what other possible aims the future holds for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. Is this a question that should really arise? I do not believe so. However, if it should, the future will determine its answers, indicating whether the zone's creation was insignificant or one of the major acts of the last decade of the century, inspired by the coastal States of the South Atlantic. In other words, the future will tell whether the emergence of this bastion of environmental defence and protection of the sea and the species living in it was untimely.

Such questioning aside, we should welcome the fact that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic has been able to meet the expectations of Member States by proving itself an important new instrument for regional cooperation and for our struggles, including the struggle against inequality, since in this domain the capacity for self-defence is in proportion to the resources of States and their level of technological development. The important point is that the maritime space of the South Atlantic has become an arena for confrontation in hypocritical relations between North and South. The dumping of dangerous wastes, toxic or nuclear, reflects the nature of this area of division.

However, as an area where the coastal States have common interests, the South Atlantic may possess the right conditions for harmony based on a creative variety of cultures, civilizations and economies. The Final Document (A/43/512, annex) of the first meeting of States of the zone, held in Rio de Janeiro - a document in whose drafting Congo was honoured to participate - attaches great importance to dialogue and cooperation between the coastal countries of Africa and South America. As in the conclusions of

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

the subsequent meeting in Abuja, it also addresses the question of protecting this marine environment, stressing a global approach that takes into account the level of development of the developing countries.

Improving our knowledge of the environment and resources of the South Atlantic will help to foster economic and social development. In that context, the South Atlantic should remain free of pollution. Furthermore, the States of the zone have agreed to establish a monitoring system in the maritime areas of the region, including the high seas.

It may be that the appropriate implementation of this wide-ranging programme cannot be sufficiently supported by the current low level of human and material exchanges. There is a need to step up such exchanges and to secure the more active support of peoples. Furthermore, the zone must bring a clearsighted gaze to bear on its immediate and more distant neighbours.

There has been a widespread expansion of freedom, with the often brutal collapse of many dictatorships and the retreat in Africa of the South African apartheid regime. In offering grounds for hope, the path towards the end of the twentieth century also offers a great deal towards the strengthening of the zone and its identity, potential and influence.

Congo, which, with others, has been in the vanguard throughout the four or five years of the zone's existence, believes that this significant development calls on us all to ensure that action prevails over inertia, that a long-term vision prevails over immediate needs. Thus it is understandable that my delegation shares the view that the zone should cover all the coastal States and exploit their network of technological, economic and cultural exchanges, which history has woven on both sides of the South Atlantic. The revitalization of the zone in this respect must bring benefits.

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

The initiative of Namibia, the last State to be admitted to the zone, to host the next meeting, in 1993, of the trade Ministers of the zone is encouraging, and shows the relationship with new members.

The delegation of Congo notes with satisfaction the important results of the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, which will make a positive contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, while also helping to promote the development of the States of the region.

There is no doubt that this dynamic process is reflected in the guidelines for sustainable development, in which Agenda 21, adopted at the Rio Conference, plays the key role. Such essential questions as the transfer of technology and resources and the financial machinery addressed in Agenda 21 have particular, positive implications for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Before concluding, I wish briefly to draw attention to certain characteristics of the zone's operation whose drawbacks should not be concealed, which call for some comment, if not proposals for corrective measures.

First, the next meeting of the States of the zone should already have taken place. The year agreed upon by the participants in the Abuja meeting was 1992. It is too late now for that meeting to be held in the last few weeks of the year, even with the best possible will on the part of the Governments concerned.

My delegation supports the efforts of the Coordinator to secure from States a commitment to hold the third meeting in keeping with principles that would give the zone a genuine identity of its own.

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

I also deplore the situations prevailing in two countries of the zone, Angola and Liberia. Let us hope that United Nations activities in those areas make it possible for progress to be made towards the remedying of those situations.

My next comment relates to the 1.5 tons of plutonium transported between France and Japan at the beginning of this month, a matter that impressed international public opinion because of the great amount of plutonium involved. Its transportation on the Japanese vessel Akatsuki-Maru meant that the South Atlantic experienced the most controversial load of plutonium in the history of maritime transport. The risks incurred in that voyage to from France to Japan - shipwreck, fire, terrorist activities, pirate attacks and so on - have already been spoken of at great length.

Ecological organizations have drawn Governments' attention to the fact that the cargo would have to travel as far as possible from the coasts of seas and oceans traversed in the journey. Here one might mention Argentina, a State of the zone, as one of the coastal States that stated their opposition to the passage of the convoy of the Akatsuki-Maru through their territorial waters. They suffered harm which meant that in effect the zone's early warning system set up by paragraph 29 of the Final Document of the Rio meeting was not operating. I believe this is a matter that Member States should consider carefully and at great length.

Mr. JALLOW (Gambia): I should first of all like to thank the Secretary-General for the report and other documents circulated in connection with this item.

My delegation fully supports the draft resolution before us, which testifies to the concern of member States of the zone to maintain the

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

environmental purity of the Atlantic Ocean and its land borders. It is also a reaffirmation of the desire of member States of the zone to evolve among themselves meaningful cooperation aimed at accelerating the socio-economic development of the region.

The declaration of the southern part of the Atlantic Ocean as a zone of peace and cooperation is indeed a practical demonstration of the United Nations efforts at enhancing peace and security. In pursuance of those goals, countries of the region of the South Atlantic Ocean have been able to prioritize their objectives and programmes in order to achieve peace, security and development in the region.

The timelessness of the Atlantic Ocean and its wide expanse of water explain the age-old innate desire of the countries of the region to safeguard their interests and strategic importance. The South Atlantic region has nevertheless been exposed to indiscriminate exploitation of its marine resources and environmental endowments.

The application of destructive methods of fishing and the over-exploitation of its living marine resources have been a constant source of concern to Member States in particular, and the international community in general.

The effect of marine pollution and climate change on the ecological balance of the region has been the presence of environmental hazards. These hazards are likely to escalate to alarming proportions if efforts are not made to arrest the indiscriminate and continuous exploitation of the resources of the zone and to protect the region against the dumping of harzardous, toxic and nuclear wastes.

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

The United Nations Conference on Evironment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro this year, reaffirmed globally the irrevocable link between development and environment. This linkage is very well founded in the existing situation of the zone, which embraces developing countries.

This region's importance and contribution to mankind's progress are reflected in its diversity and possession of natural and environmental endowments. In this regard, it is worthy of note that the region encompasses a huge part of the world's land mass and contains a significant percentage of the world's population. The region has its share of least developed countries, high levels of poverty, unemployment, under-employment and low economic growth, further compounded by the global economic recession.

Against this background we must also note the region's rich natural resources and environmental assets, such as the rain forests of the Amazon and Liberia, and a wide spectrum of marine life. These marine resources and environmental assets still constitute a pristine environmental heritage to be preserved by humankind.

It is hoped that the outcome of the Rio Conference, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity, the framework convention on climate change and the programmes and activities agreed under Agenda 21 will, when implemented, serve as an adequate deterrent to the continued destruction of the environment in the South Atlantic. The effective implementation of the relevant paragraphs of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 dealing with the protection of the oceans and seas and the rational utilization of their resources, as well as chapters 19, 20 and 22 of Agenda 21 concerned with environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, will go a long way in enhancing the protection

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

of the environmental and preservation of the ecosystems of the South Atlantic and, indeed, the promotion of effective development in the region.

The Gambia supports the urgent implementation of those plans and programmes identified under Agenda 21 for poverty alleviation, economic growth, social advancement and the attainment of sustainable development of States belonging to the zone.

The Gambia also calls for the further formulation of plans and programmes for combating drought and desertification, and the provision of adequate funds, material and appropriate technology transfers to enhance the attainment of these developmental and environmental objectives.

The pursuit of global peace and security based on cooperation is a fundamental objective of the United Nations and of major concern to the international community.

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

It is therefore gratifying to note that efforts are being made to achieve these objectives in the zone. The full entry into force of the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, following recently approved amendments to the text of the Treaty, will no doubt further enhance the prospects for peace and security in the region.

The Mendoza Declaration - to effect a total ban on chemical and biological weapons - agreed between some African and South American member States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic is a reaffirmation of the desire of member States to preserve the region from nuclear threats.

These collective initiatives and action-oriented programmes will, in the spirit of the zone, strengthen our efforts in the pursuit of peace, security, stability and cooperation in the region.

Political stability and progress is best pursued through freedom and the non-violability of the rights and privileges of the people. In pursuance of these political objectives in the zone, my delegation welcomes the recent initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to seek further support and assistance from the United Nations in regard to the deteriorating situation in Liberia; this initiative resulted in consideration of the matter by the Security Council and the adoption of Security Council resolution 788 (1992), which imposes an arms embargo against Liberia.

In the same vein, my delegation hopes that the resumption of the negotiating process in South Africa, on the basis of greater commitment and tolerance by all the parties, will eventually lead to the establishment of a non-racial, democratic government in South Africa.

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

In Angola, my delegation is hopeful that the ongoing negotiations between the parties concerned on the country's political future will soon result in a return to normalcy.

As States members of the zone prepare for their next meeting and the meeting of Trade Ministers of the zone in Namibia in 1993, my delegation urges the international community to continue to lend support to the initiatives of the States members of the zone and to contribute to the realization of the aspirations of their people to a world free from nuclear threats and environmental pollution, in an atmosphere of peace, security, stability and cooperation.

Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): In 1986, when the General Assembly adopted resolution 41/11, by which it declared the South Atlantic a zone of peace and cooperation, it launched a common undertaking with a view to providing new tools for the enhancement of the intraregional links and understandings between African and South American countries on the shores of that ocean. The initiative was geared then, as it remains today, to strengthening the foundations for increased cooperation in the promotion both of peace in our region and of development for the benefit of our peoples.

Since then the region has witnessed a series of historic changes and remarkable events, most of them positive, some not. However, the importance of the objectives and principles of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic has in no way diminished. Thus, we acknowledge with satisfaction the increasing support, by now virtually unanimous, enjoyed by the draft resolution presented under this item each year.

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

As stated in the text submitted by the Brazilian Government for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on this subject,

"in a world in which the end of the East-West confrontation has proved to be less than enough to bring about effective solutions to some resilient regional conflicts, or prevent the resurgence of old ones, and at a time in which the gap between rich and poor, developing and developed, has continued to grow, the relevance of the concepts of peace and cooperation cannot be overemphasized." (A/47/424/Add.1, para. 2).

The Government of Brazil has expressed, and wishes to reiterate here, its concern for the deterioration of the situation in Angola, a country to which we are bound by deep links, and its most sincere hope that the Angolan people will soon be able to complete successfully the national peace and reconciliation process, in full compliance with the Acordos de Paz para Angola. This is a process in which the United Nations has played and continues to play a very special role and to which it has dedicated a great deal of effort and resources. It is our hope that the implementation of Security Council resolution 785 (1992) will pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the current problems.

The conflict in Liberia is still raging in spite of the commendable and continued efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to restore peace, security and stability in that country, efforts which deserve all the support of the international community. We look forward to the implementation of Security Council resolution 788 (1992).

The situation in South Africa is also of particular relevance to our debate today. More than once the countries of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic have expressed their willingness to welcome

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

among them in the near future a non-racial, democratic South Africa. To this end, and quoting Brazil's statement during the debate on this item of our agenda,

> "it is the sincere hope of the Government and the people of Brazil that the courageous people of South Africa and its responsible leadership may achieve the long-awaited reconciliation and reconstruction of its society in a peaceful and harmonious way at the earliest possible time."
> (A/47/PV.66, p. 49)

The settlement of those serious problems, a goal to which Brazil is ready to contribute to the best of its ability, will certainly bring us closer to a future of increasing effectiveness in the advancement of the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

Brazil hopes that an important step toward our common endeavour for enhanced peace and security in the region will soon be taken with the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Treaty of Tlatelolco. There is a prospect of such a positive development because of the recently approved amendments to the text of the Treaty as a result of an initiative put forward by two countries of the zone of peace, Brazil and Argentina, together with Chile and Mexico.

The protection of the environment has always ranked high among the priorities of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. Since the inception of our regional mechanism, concern over the conservation of natural resources and the determination of the countries of the region to act accordingly, and together, have been basic tenets of the zone.

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

Thus, we welcome with justified satisfaction the results of the Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development. By the same token, we now look forward with great anticipation to the implementation of the decisions arrived at in Rio, including in particular those related to transfers of technology and to financial resources and mechanisms. It is our conviction that a prompt translation into reality of the commitments reached there, and of the "Rio spirit" in particular, will have a positive bearing on the protection of the environment in the South Atlantic as well as on the development of the countries of the region.

The protection of the environment is a most promising field for increased cooperation in the future within the scope of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

(Mr. de Araujo Castro, Brazil)

Much has been accomplished in the last six years, but it is clear to us that the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic has yet to achieve, as a regional mechanism, the full measure of its promising potentialities. With a view to achieving this end, it is up to the countries of the region to devise further ways and means to translate political will into concrete forms of cooperation, with the support, as appropriate, of the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system.

In this regard the Brazilian Government warmly welcomes the generous offer of the Namibian Government to host next year in Windhoek a meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry of the countries of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. We are certain that the Windhoek meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the furtherance of the objectives of the zone.

In concluding, I wish to voice the gratitude of my delegation for the impeccable work being done by Nigeria as coordinator of the States of the zone and to express our hope that the draft resolution put forward under this agenda item will be considered by Member States in the same positive spirit in which it was drafted by its sponsors.

Mr. HUARAKA (Namibia): Peace, security and development are interrelated and complementary. In the post-cold-war era economic cooperation has shifted to the centre of inter-State relationships. No country is an island, and, for a small and developing country like Namibia, cooperation is essential, in particular with the countries of the zone.

The economic cooperation of the zone could be promoted and improved if a suitable trade-promotion mechanism were put in place among the countries of the zone. With peace achieved in the zone, now is the time to give business people the confidence to engage in trade.

(Mr. Huaraka, Namibia)

The States of the zone attach particular importance to the protection and preservation of the environment. Indeed, the Earth Summit held in Rio last June put the preservation of the environment at the centre of development strategy. The damage that pollution from any source may cause to the marine and coastal environment of the countries of the zone cannot be overstated.

It is in this light that my delegation joins other delegations from the zone in expressing concern over the use of fishing methods that cause the over-exploitation of living marine resources. Since the implementation of its policy on fisheries, Namibia has already achieved a remarkable recovery of some species, in particular pilchard and whitefish, due to the implementation of strict conservation policies. For Namibia, fishery is a resource that we can utilize only in a sustainable manner. It is a resource that is fragile and must be bequeathed to the Namibian generations to come.

Developments in Angola and Liberia, two States members of the zone, are of great concern to my delegation. The recently adopted Security Council resolutions 785 (1992) and 788 (1992) and the efforts being made by the Secretary-General for the purpose of resolving the conflicts in these two troubled countries members of the zone enjoy the full support of my delegation.

We express the hope that the political situation in South Africa will change sooner rather than later, so that a unitary, non-racial and democratic South Africa can become a member of the community of South Atlantic States.

In resolution 46/19 the General Assembly welcomed the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean at its twelfth regular session, on the cooperation between the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. The Assembly further expressed its appreciation for the success achieved by Namibia in the

(Mr. Huaraka, Namibia)

attainment of its independence and called upon the international community to render necessary assistance to Namibia.

I would fail in my duty if I did not commend the Secretary-General's report on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (A/47/424 and Add.1, 2 and 3). Among other things contained in the report, in chapter III, on "Replies received from United Nations organizations", the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports that

> "At its thirty-eighth session, in June 1991, the Governing Council of UNDP decided to extend special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given a least developed country. As such Namibia will benefit from enhanced allocation of UNDP resources in the future."
>
> (A/47/424, chapter 3, para. 1)

In conclusion, my delegation is pleased to announce the initiative of the Government of Namibia to host a meeting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry of the countries of the zone at Windhoek in the first half of 1993.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

At the request of its sponsors, action on draft resolution A/47/L.24 is postponed to a later date to be announced in the Journal.

AGENDA ITEM 141

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/47/L.25/Rev.1)

Mr. KARZAY (Afghanistan): At the outset, I should like to thank the President and the members of the Assembly for providing an opportunity for agenda item 141, relating to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Karzay, Afghanistan)

The message I want to convey to the world today through the Assembly in introducing this agenda item, proposed by the Islamic State of Afghanistan, is one full of hope and expectation from a nation that faced the military aggression of a super-Power for 14 years and endured merciless genocide, bombings and destruction.

(Mr. Karzay, Afghanistan)

Indeed, the message of a nation that withstood 14 years of suffering and devastation can come only from the cry of those who bewail homelessness and deprivation and from the lamenting of parents, orphans and widows who have lost their loved ones.

This is the message of millions of Afghans who are still living in so-called shelters made of mud, millions of Afghans whose properties have been destroyed, in whose agricultural lands mines have been implanted, whose irrigation system has been devastated, and whose livestock have perished. It is the message of 5 million Afghan refugees who still live in exile and are afraid to return to their homes because more than 10 million mines are scattered all over their country.

This is a plea to a world family that calls itself "We the peoples of the United Nations" and has collectively pledged that it is determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples. Do not the responsibility of mankind and the principles that are the foundation of this world body and its Charter dictate that the international machinery be put at work to assist in the economic and social development of the war-stricken people of Afghanistan?

A country that not only defended itself but also contributed to the independence of many other nations and to the ending of the cold war is today in an unimaginable state of need. Allow me to give an example.

While visiting some rural areas of the country just a few months ago I found that there were not even the minimum conditions of life to indicate that there had been any economic or development activity for many years. The only

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things clearly visible to me were the effects of continued and systematic destruction of whatever socio-economic infrastructure we had had before the war. There were no roads, no health service, no means of communication and no schools for children or adults. For a moment I thought that if it were not for the presence of pick-up trucks, wrist watches and transistor radios, one certainly could not tell whether one was in the twentieth century or, perhaps, in the middle ages. There was no electricity in the entire area. Only a few people were fortunate enough to have lanterns, and even fewer had kerosene to light their lanterns. Candles were regarded as a luxury. The destruction of canals and watercourses had left the population with a serious water shortage.

But, above all, what I saw on the faces of the people was more heart-breaking than their poverty and the destruction of their houses and properties - and that was expectation and hope for what they did not have. Most people, unemployed, sat on sidewalks, drowned in painful thoughts of despair. Children played in the fields, without any form of education, unaware, in their innocence, of what had come upon them.

The people there were surrounded by the only thing that they seemed to have in abundance: graves - graves of the martyrs of 14 years of war, which, in accordance with Afghan tradition, were decorated with white or green flags. I remembered the words of the Secretary-General, who had rightly said:

> "Few countries in history have suffered to the extent Afghanistan has over the past 14 years. Aside from physical destruction, which was often nothing short of cataclysmic, the results of the war include well over a million people killed, over 2 million disabled; nearly 6 million refugees in neighbouring countries; and 2 million internally displaced persons."

(Mr. Karzay, Afghanistan)

This is only one example among hundreds of towns and villages whose present dreadful state is a reflection of the immense infrastructure destruction in Afghanistan. Let us go deeper into the problems that Afghanistan has inherited from this war and examine its effects on the social and economic infrastructure of the country.

By tradition, Afghanistan's economy is based on agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry. Agriculture, as the main sector of our economy, was seriously affected by war. More than 40 per cent of the area that had been under cultivation was damaged or left uncultivated; irrigation systems, including watercourses and canals, were either destroyed or abandoned; agricultural services declined.

Two other main factors are contributing to the drastic decline in agricultural productivity. Farmers are difficult to find, as most were killed in the war, or are among the refugees abroad, or are displaced within the country and unable to return to their fields, partly because of the millions of mines that were indiscriminately dispersed on agricultural lands. Another ill effect of the bombardment and the use of napalm has been the destruction of top soil, which has turned arable land into what for years to come will be desolate wasteland.

In addition to all this damage, our agricultural sector has been gravely affected by natural disasters. For example, in 1991 about 80,000 acres of agricultural land in the provinces of Farah, Nimruz and Ghor suffered flooding. Also, floods in Parwan province in August this year resulted in the death of nearly 2,000 people, the destruction of more than 3,900 houses, the extermination of more than 6,000 livestock and the destruction of

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approximately 3,000 acres of agricultural land. The total damage was estimated to be $170 million.

As a consequence, a country that was almost self-sufficient in agricultural production in the 1970s is today in dire need of food grain and foreign aid. For example, in the year 1991 it was estimated that the country would require 860,000 tons of wheat for the entire population. Of this quantity, 650,000 tons was imported from abroad.

The war has also resulted in the destruction of more than 200,000 acres of forest; more than 43,000 vineyards, whose crop constituted a predominant export to the countries of the region, have been destroyed; 5.5 million head of cattle and livestock have been exterminated; and 2,700 kilometres of asphalt highways and 6,000 kilometres of secondary roads have been damaged. Also, almost 2,000 school buildings, 120 health centres and 20 hospitals have suffered serious damage. We have almost 2 million internally displaced persons; approximately 5 million refugees are living abroad; and more than 2 million people are disabled. Most painful of all is the tragic fact that 1.5 million people have been martyred and are no longer with us.

As I mentioned earlier, customs duties used to constitute one of the major sources of revenue. Fourteen years of war has also, of course, considerably reduced the volume of the country's trade. Consequently, trade-tax revenue is today at an all-time low.

With regard to the current state of Afghanistan's economy and its current financial situation, one can state that the suspension of economic assistance from the international financial institutions and donor countries during the past 14 years has placed ar extra burden on the already-weakened economy of our country. Data indicate that the Communist regime dealt with 80 per cent

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of the budget deficit by printing currency notes. Continuing drastic budget deficits and high inflationary pressure caused the economy to deteriorate to a state of near-collapse.

Let me refer now to the repatriation of refugees. In the first three months after the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan more than 1 million refugees returned to the country. Unfortunately, hundreds of those who returned were met by land-mines. According to reports, during the months of May and June of 1992 the hospitals of the Pakistani border town of Peshawar became flooded with Afghan refugees who had been injured by land-mines on their way back home. This problem, besides seriously hampering resumption of the productive activity of the farmers of the country - something that I mentioned earlier - will continue to jeopardize the reconstruction of irrigation systems and transportation facilities, as well as the repatriation and resettlement of the refugees.

To overcome this problem, we need, on the one hand, to carry out an intensified campaign in the country with the aim of making the people aware of the danger of mines and how to avoid them and, on the other hand, to request from the United Nations, the international community and the non-governmental organizations further assistance for intensive demining and training activities. This concern is expressed very well in the fourth section of the Secretary-General's consolidated appeal of 5 June 1992.

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The ongoing encashment programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme in Pakistan to provide 300 kilograms of wheat and 3,300 Pakistan rupees - valued at $130 - as a repatriation grant in exchange for each ration card, and a similar grant arrangement, which is being provided for Afghan refugees returning from Iran, may be sufficient to enable them to return, but not sufficient enough for resettlement.

There is an urgent need for assistance in controlling the possible outbreak of epidemics, which could occur with the massive return of refugees into the country. Tuberculosis and meningitis continue to be a serious problem, while malaria, which was eradicated, according to the World Health Organization, has returned to spread again in Afghanistan. This is creating new problems concerning immunization and control of their further expansion. Maternal and child care does not even approach the necessary standards. Essential and necessary medicines are rarely available, and the health infrastructure, including drinking water and sanitation, have suffered enormous damage.

Before the war, Afghanistan, as an underdeveloped country, had one of the lowest rates of literacy. Today, unfortunately, the condition is worse than 14 years ago. What could be more disastrous for the future of a nation than to have a collapsed education system?

During the war, about 2,000 school buildings were destroyed and thousands of teachers were either killed or forced to leave the country.

Kabul University and other educational institutions of the country were not spared from the devastating effects of the war. The majority of university lecturers also disappeared during the communist regime or left the

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country. Affiliations and other academic contacts with the universities and academic institutions of other countries have been interrupted. Educational equipment and materials are seriously lacking.

With these painful facts, we are now arriving at our request from the international community for emergency assistance. Indeed, with the report that I have just presented to the Assembly of the devastated state in which my country finds itself today, I find it hard to prioritize our needs in asking for emergency aid, for there is a dire need for almost everything.

Nevertheless, the following areas are in need of urgent attention. First, there is the lack of heating fuel, which is crucial for the survival of thousands of people, especially vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick, in the face of the cold weather of the coming winter, particularly in Kabul.

Secondly, the shortage of foodstuffs, as reflected in paragraph 14 of Mr. Jan Eliasson's winter emergency appeal, indicates that 3.86 million - that is, almost 4 million - people will need emergency food assistance. According to United Nations estimates, 320,000 tons of food are required on an emergency basis for the residents of Kabul and 14 other provinces. The food situation, as explained in the winter emergency appeal, seems to be precarious in the coming winter, particularly in the provinces that have seen the recent arrival of a large number of returnees and displaced persons from Kabul. Moreover, a similar situation prevails in the mountainous internal regions of Hazarajat, and certain provinces, such as Badakhshan, which are inaccessible during the winter, owing to heavy snowfall.

Thirdly, there is implementation and serious pursuit of the de-mining programme, the urgency of which was outlined earlier.

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Fourthly, on providing shelter, as stated in paragraph 22 of the winter emergency appeal, in the coming winter alone an estimated $8 million are required for providing temporary shelters for the most affected areas.

Fifthly, in the field of health care, the winter emergency appeal has estimated $3.4 million for funding to cover health care services, that is, minimum health care services only for the coming winter.

We cannot fail to express our gratitude and thanks to the donor countries, which, through their bilateral support, as well as under multilateral funding programmes with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have provided health services to many rural areas. We also wish to express our appreciation to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to other non-governmental organizations for providing assistance to the needy people, particularly those who are living in deprived circumstances.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude for the positive response of a number of countries to the appeal made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for $180 million in emergency aid to Afghanistan. On behalf of the people and of the Government of Afghanistan, we are drawing the attention of those countries that have not yet responded to the emergency aid appeal to the utmost urgency of such humanitarian assistance.

In order to reconstruct our war-torn country, we need assistance in every social and economic field. At this time, however, urgent assistance is needed to procure essential commodities, such as wheat, sugar, tea, cooking oil and petroleum products. We need assistance to repatriate our refugees and to restore public services. We need assistance to re-establish normal life in the entire country, repatriate our professionals and skilled human resources,

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re-open schools and hospitals, increase productivity in the agricultural sector, revitalize farms, extend veterinary and animal husbandry services, rehabilitate textiles, cement plants, the sugar industry and electric power, which is now available to only 6 per cent of the population, and to re-establish telecommunications systems. The accomplishment of all these objectives requires significant international assistance.

Although during its long history Afghanistan, on a number of occasions after experiencing similar catastrophes, if not of the same magnitude, has proved itself capable of returning to self-reliance, it is our expectation that the freedom-loving countries of the world that supported us during the years of our struggle for freedom will continue to support us during the years of our struggle for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

In order to ensure international assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, a draft resolution contained in document A/47/L.25/Rev.1 will be introduced on behalf of its sponsors, for which we are extremely grateful.

Members' support in the adoption of that draft resolution and their generous contribution and assistance in the implementation of its objectives will help to meet the serious and imminent threats against the lives of millions of innocent Afghans and the well-being and welfare of the generations to come. It will enable us to reconstruct our ruined homeland after an extremely extensive human disaster, the merciless flames of which burned almost whatever we possesed as a poor country. It will also enable our nation, like all other nations, once again to strive towards peace and progress.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the Permanent Representative of Turkey, who will introduce draft resolution A/47/L.25/Rev.1 in the course of his statement.

Mr. AKŞIN (Turkey): After suffering enormously during 14 long years of war and the attendant devastation, Afghanistan has now entered a new phase in its history when rehabilitation and reconstruction will be given priority. Members have just heard from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan the magnitude of the task facing that country. Afghanistan is one of the least developed countries, and it faces a critical economic situation. Its economy and social infrastructure have been devastated, and it will take many years to restore the situation there. The return of millions of refugees and their resettlement will be a heavy burden on the limited resources of Afghanistan.

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

Winters in Afghanistan are long and harsh, bringing sub-zero temperatures and heavy snows, leaving many communities completely isolated and cutting off supply routes. The hardships that many Afghan families will suffer during the coming winter are likely to be severe. Indeed, according to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, without assistance many Afghans may not survive the winter. The repatriation of more than a million refugees this year, the displacement from Kabul of several hundred thousand persons, the lack of infrastructure and the inability to make adequate provisions for winter are among the factors creating the need for emergency assistance.

The draft resolution (A/47/L.25/Rev.1) that I have the honour to introduce on behalf of 31 sponsors is entitled "Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan". In addition to the countries listed in the document, Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America have become sponsors.

The draft resolution consists of 11 preambular and nine operative paragraphs. It is an appeal to all States, organizations, agencies and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide all possible financial, technical and material assistance. It requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued operation and further strengthening of humanitarian and economic assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan and to dispatch a team of experts to evaluate the war damage to that country. It also requests the Secretary-General to initiate a plan for mobilizing financial, technical and material assistance, including the convening of a conference of donor States and international financial institutions. The draft resolution also appeals to all Member States to provide emergency financial assistance to the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund and to consolidated appeals by the Secretary-General.

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

This draft resolution is an expression of the support of the international community for the people and Government of Afghanistan. We are confident that the General Assembly, always true to its tradition of solidarity with its members in their hour of need, will rally to the assistance of Afghanistan and adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Mr. KHARRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Afghanistan on their great victory and on the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. I should also like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his Personal Representatives for all their efforts to help Afghanistan during the war and its aftermath.

We are glad that today, after 14 years of war, the Muslim people of Afghanistan have finally achieved their aspiration to found an Islamic, non-aligned and independent Government. Despite the serious challenges facing it, we are fully confident that through unity and steadfastness, and without foreign intervention, Afghanistan can overcome its difficulties and begin the process of reconstruction. At this juncture, what is important is the fact that all segments of the Afghan population should put aside their differences and help the legitimate Government to rebuild the country.

No people in recent history have experienced the disasters and disadvantages that the people of Afghanistan have. The country's hardships and difficulties can be attributed to both natural and man-made causes.

Even before the war the country's resources, as well as the opportunities available to the Afghan people for economic and social development, had been in need of extra attention. The country's exports barely provided for the basic needs of its population, thus rendering it unable to invest in

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

long-term planning, including the establishment of an economic infrastructure and a human-development programme. In addition to these economic difficulties, Afghanistan's geographical position as a land-locked country has exacerbated its problems.

Apart from those dilemmas, during the past 14 years Afghanistan has been plagued by foreign occupation and civil war, thus further reducing the already slim chances and resources for development. The magnitude of the bloodshed and destruction is a matter of great concern. More than 1 million people have been killed and more than 2 million disabled, and nearly 8 million people have either taken refuge in neighbouring countries - the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan - or have been internally displaced. The fact that a large number of the casualties were young males indicates the losses Afghanistan has suffered in terms of available manpower.

The physical destruction of the country is yet another dimension of its deplorable situation. Virtually nothing remains of the country's infrastructure, except ruins. Roads, bridges, irrigation systems, farms, industries, schools and so on all bear the severe scars of war. Few villages can be found that have been spared total devastation. Moreover, heavy damage has been inflicted on the cities, and many public services in urban areas have collapsed. Accordingly, Afghanistan's natural disadvantages and war damage combined have led to a situation in which the per capita gross national product is $218, life expectancy is about 40 years, the literacy rate is 12 per cent and there is only one hospital available for every 218,015 persons. This vast destruction and the tremendous loss of opportunity during those 14 years have caused Afghanistan to fall far behind what it once was.

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Against this background, the newly founded Islamic State of Afghanistan faces enormously difficult challenges, including the repatriation and settlement of refugees and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country. Taking into account the importance of returning to normality, as well as the proportion of the population in rural areas as compared with the cities, we see that the first step in the normalization process should be the restoration of basic services and preparation for a resumption of agricultural production.

At present the people and Government of Afghanistan cannot take even these preliminary steps on their own. The extent of the requirements for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan far exceeds its existing abilities and resources. As the Secretary-General stated in his Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan,

> "the country is still faced with an emergency of dramatic proportions, in which almost everything is needed and almost nothing is readily available."

Therefore, in view of the difficulties and uncertainties that lie ahead for the country, the international community has a moral responsibility to respond urgently to the needs of Afghanistan at this crucial juncture.

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Because of the urgency of this task, we are concerned about the lack of an adequate response to the Secretary-General's Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, which addressed the most urgent needs in the fields of food aid, health, mine clearance, voluntary repatriation, agriculture, education, rehabilitation of the infrastructure and drug control. Unfortunately, of the suggested $179.7 million for emergency humanitarian assistance for the period June-December 1992, only $59 million has been recorded. Therefore, the agencies involved in various programmes envisaged in the Consolidated Appeal have not been able to implement their projected programmes.

At the same time, the coming winter may make the situation even worse, exposing the already suffering people to new hardships. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the note prepared by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the winter emergency needs of Afghanistan. I would like to confirm the determination of my Government to assist Ambassador Eliasson in implementing his plan.

Clearly, in order to respond effectively to the short- and long-term requirements of Afghanistan's rehabilitation and reconstruction, there is a need for a new plan to mobilize financial, technical and material assistance, including the convening of an international pledging conference. An expert team should be dispatched to Afghanistan as soon as possible in order to evaluate the war damage and destruction and to prepare a comprehensive report on requirements for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country. Given the significant role that the international financial institutions can play in the rehabilitation and reconstruction processes, the Secretary-General's plan should also explore ways and means to seek active

(Mr. Kharrazi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

involvement of these institutions to achieve the targets it is to set. We hope that the international community, and in particular donor countries, will respond adequately to the Consolidated Appeal of the Secretary-General, and the new initiatives to be taken by him, based on the team's report.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently, throughout the 14 years of foreign occupation and civil war, and thereafter, supported the people of Afghanistan in their desire for peace and prosperity, and we will continue to do so. In the light of this, may I briefly enumerate some of the measures taken by my country to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people.

For 14 years, despite the enormous burden of the war imposed on Iran, my country has been host to more than 2 million Afghan refugees, the great majority of whom are still living in Iran. Immediately following the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, despite the eruption of new hostilities, which threatened the security of relief workers, the Islamic Republic of Iran rushed to the aid of Afghanistan. It is worth noting that to date more than 80 planeloads of aid have been sent to Afghanistan. During the visit to Tehran by the interim President, Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani, an additional $50 million in credits was offered to that country.

Furthermore, in order to improve medical and health care capacities, several medical teams have been dispatched to Afghanistan, and various training programmes in these fields have been conducted by the Iranian Red Crescent for Afghan nationals.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's firm determination to continue its assistance to Afghanistan.

Mr. MASOOD (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation welcomes the consideration by the General Assembly of the agenda item "Emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan". Our deliberations on this important issue have humanitarian, economic and political dimensions.

The people of Afghanistan waged a long and bitter struggle to regain their country's independence from foreign occupation and domination. This was a crucial struggle with far-reaching implications for the region and the world. The world cannot but welcome the cessation of hostilities in Afghanistan. We are confident that our Afghan brothers will peacefully evolve a national political consensus. In this connection, Pakistan welcomes the initiation of the electoral process in Afghanistan.

The cost of the decade and a half of war and conflict has been monumental. Over a million Afghans have died. More than 2 million have been maimed and injured. And nearly six million have fled, mainly to Pakistan and Iran, as refugees. Afghanistan's infrastructure - its roads, bridges and irrigation channels - has all been destroyed. Services such as health and education are virtually non-existent. What is more, the entire country is littered with millions of mines, which have yet to be removed.

Afghanistan requires extensive and comprehensive assistance: first, for the repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees, as well as displaced persons within Afghanistan; secondly, for the reconstruction of the infrastructure and basic services; and, thirdly, for economic and social development.

The Afghan economy, one of the least developed in the world even before the war, must be revived through a speedy process of rehabilitation and reconstruction. An economic revival is essential to support the transition to representative government in Afghanistan and to achieve full reconciliation

(Mr. Masood, Pakistan)

and harmony among the Afghan people. In turn, peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan will contribute to the evolution of cooperation and stability in the entire region. In this context, the forthcoming admission of Afghanistan, together with the five Central Asian Republics, into the Economic Cooperation Organization linking Pakistan, Turkey and Iran, will be an important development.

The world community helped Afghanistan to regain its freedom; it must also help Afghanistan to redress the consequences of the conflict which was imposed on its people.

(Mr. Masood, Pakistan)

We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to focus on the grave situation in Afghanistan by launching his Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan. We hope that the international community will respond by contributing additional resources of $180 million to United Nations agencies for emergency humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan to cover the latter half of 1992. These resources, which include a shortfall of $76 million in the current year for the ongoing Operation Salam, are designed to meet food aid, health and mine clearance needs and the needs of voluntary repatriation of refugees.

In addition, support is required for the existing programmes of United Nations agencies in the fields of agriculture, education, rehabilitation of infrastructure and drug-abuse control. Earlier this month the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Eliasson, reminded the donor countries that $17.8 million was required immediately to meet the emergency needs of the Afghan people during the next two months of winter. There should be an urgent response to these requirements.

It is essential that the United Nations agencies be provided with the necessary resources to meet the emergency needs of the Afghan people. Unfortunately, the targets set forth in the Secretary-General's Appeal are as yet far from becoming a reality. The Appeal also identifies a number of basic economic problems confronting Afghanistan which humanitarian agencies are not in a position to address and which have been brought to the attention of bilateral donors and international financial institutions. Foremost among these are the problems of the acute budget deficit of the Afghan Government and the shortages of food and fuel.

(Mr. Masood, Pakistan)

Pakistan urges the international community, especially the major donor countries and financial institutions, to provide the financial, technical and material assistance needed for Afghanistan.

The Government and people of Pakistan have stood by their Afghan brothers throughout their trials and tribulations of the past several years. We are proud to have contributed to their success in regaining control over their own destiny. Pakistan reiterates the hope that the conditions will be created in Afghanistan to enable all the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran to return in safety to their homes.

The Secretary-General has pointed out that for successful repatriation of refugees it is essential that the international community maintain assistance to the refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan at the current level. Pakistan reiterates its full support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan and its economic development. We reaffirm our pledge to channel all assistance to Afghanistan through the Government of Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan has so far extended trade credits to Afghanistan. We have continued to meet the shortfalls for wheat and energy requirements.

It is our hope that the General Assembly will resolutely support the call for greater international assistance to Afghanistan to enable this brave country, which has suffered so much for so long, to consolidate its freedom and establish peace, prosperity and democracy.

Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America): I am pleased to appear before the General Assembly as a sponsor of the draft resolution, which addresses an issue of continuing concern to the United States and the international community at large: the pressing need for emergency assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

We thank the Secretary-General for the assessment of the needs of Afghanistan set forth in his 5 June 1992 Consolidated Appeal and in subsequent emergency appeals. As highlighted in the June Appeal, two years after the end of the war Afghanistan continues to face tremendous economic, humanitarian and refugee-related problems. Clearly, while the United Nations and the international community have made significant inroads in alleviating the suffering in Afghanistan, much remains to be done. Recent flooding has compounded existing problems and is yet another cause for concern. Both the near-term need of humanitarian relief during the coming winter months and the longer term challenge of rebuilding the nation's economy demand our attention.

Since 1985 the United States has provided approximately $475 million to support programmes in reconstruction, agriculture, health, education and general relief in Afghanistan. These programmes have had an impact - more than 1,600 irrigation systems have been rehabilitated, more than 3 million textbooks have been distributed to school-age children and more than 1,500 health posts and clinics have received United States assistance. Some United States bilateral assistance programmes are also already operating in areas affected by the recent floods and will serve to mitigate the impact of the flooding. On the issue of refugees we have maintained strong support for war-affected populations inside and outside Afghanistan through bilateral and multilateral programmes.

In addition to our bilateral assistance programmes, the United States channels assistance to Afghanistan through the United Nations and other international organizations. Since 1980 we have contributed more than

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

$700 million to these organizations. In response to the Secretary-General's June Appeal we pledged an additional $8 million.

The United States wishes to continue to play a role in helping Afghanistan rebuild after 14 years of a devastating war. As we consider international relief needs we would like to draw special attention to the importance of de-mining activities. The millions of mines remaining in Afghanistan will threaten lives and hamper relief and reconstruction efforts for years to come.

We would also like to make a special mention of the serious risk of hunger in Afghanistan this winter among returned refugees and displaced persons. This risk was described in the recent "Note on Winter Emergency Needs in Afghanistan". The United States and other donors are currently examining ways to respond to this near-term need. Yet security conditions inside the country continue to hamper efforts to get assistance to those who are at risk.

The United States is concerned about opium and heroin production in Afghanistan. We commend the Interim Government for the seriousness it has shown in combating narcotics, in its public statements and by forming a commission to focus specifically on this problem. It is important for the international community to assist the Afghan counter-narcotics efforts, particularly by encouraging crop substitution.

The draft resolution before us includes the possibility of the Secretary-General's convening a conference on the reconstruction of Afghanistan. We wish to stress that the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan will be a long-term process requiring years of commitment. We believe that the establishment of a process in which Afghanistan's

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

reconstruction needs are precisely defined on an ongoing basis and donor efforts are coordinated would better serve the people of Afghanistan than convening a conference as envisaged by the draft resolution. The United States cannot agree to attend such a conference at this time, but it will study seriously any proposal made by the Secretary-General. We strongly encourage the international financial institutions in particular to play a leading role in mobilizing and coordinating a long-term donor effort to help rebuild the Afghan economy.

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

Afghanistan is in the process of forming a more permanent Government that will be representative of all the Afghan people. This task is made all the more difficult by the economic devastation in the country. We urge the Secretary-General to continue monitoring humanitarian conditions and the overall political situation inside Afghanistan, making his good offices available as required. We also urge the United Nations to re-establish its office in Kabul as soon as security conditions there permit.

The United States recognizes that the needs in Afghanistan will be great in the years ahead. The United States will do all it can, given resource constraints, to help Afghanistan rebuild and join the world community of peaceful and prosperous nations. We look forward to working with other delegations to craft a draft resolution that will contribute in a meaningful way to this endeavour.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan): My delegation would like to comment briefly on the situation in Afghanistan, under agenda item 141.

More than a million Afghan refugees from Pakistan and Iran have been repatriated since the momentous political changes that took place in the first half of the year, in what has been described as

"the largest and fastest return of a well-established caseload of refugees in the history of the UNHCR".

This is a most welcome development. And the flow is not diminishing; according to the most recent Weekly Update from the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA), approximately 1,600 people are returning to Afghanistan every day from Pakistan and 800 to 1,000 from Iran.

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

While this massive movement of refugees has been made possible by the collapse of the former Government of Afghanistan, the situation as a whole remains unsettled. A number of armed clashes took place in Kabul last August, and sporadic unrest was reported in several provinces. My Government is gravely concerned that the continued failure of the Mujahideen groups to reach a peace agreement may bring to a halt the long-awaited resolution of the Afghan refugee situation now in progress.

At this juncture two recent developments are particularly troubling. In the first, an estimated 500,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Kabul and seek refuge in neighbouring provinces as a result of the outbreak of hostilities last August. With the onset of the harsh Afghan winter, the creation of a host of displaced persons threatens to strain the overburdened infrastructure of the country and lower the already miserable living standards of its people. The second development is taking place in border areas, where there are tentative signs of a flow of refugees back out of the country, apparently due to setbacks in the prospects for a political settlement and economic reconstruction of the country. My delegation strongly hopes that these trends will not continue and that efforts will be redoubled to ensure that the momentum of voluntary repatriation efforts is maintained.

Since 1979 my Government has stood firmly behind international efforts to resolve the Afghan crisis. It has strongly supported the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan as they have striven to alleviate the suffering of those who have fled their homes. It has also worked actively with other Member States, both inside and outside the United Nations, to bring about the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, one of the first and most important prerequisites for a settlement. This year it has provided

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

$16.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees through various international organizations. With a view to helping facilitate the voluntary repatriation effort which began early this year, it has provided out of that amount a total of $8 million to programmes relating to Afghans returning from Pakistan and $3.5 million to a programme to aid Afghans coming back from Iran.

In response to the United Nations Consolidated Appeals launched in June and November, Japan decided to allocate assistance for Afghan refugees to a wider range of programmes this year. For example, it allocated $2 million to a mine clearance programme whose purpose is to reduce the threat of injury to refugees returning home, a threat whose gravity was documented in the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It also supports the emergency programme undertaken jointly by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to provide essential supplies so that refugees will be able to weather the coming winter. Japan has contributed $1.3 million to this programme, entitled the Health Care Project. In addition, it provided $1 million to the ICRC Project for Afghan Conflict Victims to help provide hospitals with accommodation for refugee patients.

In conclusion, the situation in Afghanistan illustrates both the potential of humanitarian action and the extent to which it is linked to the activities of peace-keeping and peacemaking. Peace is now within reach in Afghanistan, and my Government calls upon all Mujahideen groups, which once closed ranks and fought for the cause of freedom and peace, to intensify their efforts to achieve national reconciliation and establish a foundation for national rehabilitation and reconstruction. My Government renews its commitment to cooperating in the concerted efforts of the international community to that end.

Mrs. HASSAN (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes first of all to pay tribute to the brotherly Afghani people who have struggled for 14 long years during which no sacrifice was too dear in the fight for freedom and independence. I salute the memory of the millions of martyrs who gave their lives to ensure victory, and welcome the establishment of the new Government of Islamic Afghanistan.

Egypt's commitment to the just cause of the people of Afghanistan has been solid and consistent throughout Afghanistan's struggle. The same commitment continues and will continue as the Afghani people face up to the present and future challenges involved in the task of restoring stability, rebuilding the State and achieving economic progress and stability.

(Mrs. Hassan, Egypt)

Afghanistan needs intensification of efforts aimed at national reconciliation, unity and the setting aside of differences in a real spirit of brotherliness that puts the interests of the country first. All the parties concerned should commit themselves to the search for peaceful solutions to all their differences and to constructive dialogue since fratricidal strife undermines the cause of peace and stability and runs counter to the very ethic of Afghani struggle.

We hope that all the leaders in Afghanistan will act as one man and work for the permanent peace through which progress and prosperity for the Afghani people may be achieved.

In this connection, we welcome the initiation of the electoral process in Afghanistan.

The coming stage is one of challenges the intensity of which may equal and even surpass that of the challenges of liberation. Afghanistan faces a long haul, a long and arduous period of struggle which requires concerted national and international efforts for the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure which was devastated during the long years of war, particularly in the area of agriculture, as was stated by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in his statement before the Assembly today.

A high priority should be accorded to the intensification of efforts aimed at the voluntary return and the repatriation of the millions of Afghani refugees now in neighbouring countries, and their resettlement in their country, in addition to the rehabilitation of about 2 million people who have become handicapped as a result of the war. Mines in different parts of the country need to be removed. Attention should also be paid to education, as a

(Mrs. Hassan, Egypt)

whole generation has been deprived of the opportunity of benefiting from basic education. In addition, there is the task of revitalizing all the sectors of the economic and social life of the country.

The intensification of efforts aimed at national reconciliation and at generating a healthy relationship between the different Afghan leaders would create the necessary climate that should enable the country to benefit from the support of the international community. In our view, this international support should not be limited to the provision of humanitarian assistance with the aim of helping the Afghan people and mitigating its suffering. There is a pressing and urgent need for a process of complete internal reconstruction that requires the concerted efforts of all friendly countries and the solidarity of all the members of the international community.

In this connection, the Egyptian delegation expresses its deep regret at the limited response to the consolidated appeal by the Secretary-General made on 5 June 1992 for emergency assistance to Afghanistan. This appeal was the result of cooperation between the various agencies and programmes of the United Nations after consultation with the Kabul authorities on the urgent requirements in the area of humanitarian activities for the period from June through December 1992. Those requirements were estimated to be $180 million. Regrettably, the response so far has been to the tune of $59 million only in financial assistance and assistance in kind. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs has estimated that the United Nations is in urgent need of an additional $17.6 million in order for it to meet the requirements of winter assistance in Afghanistan and to meet food requirements and the provision of fuel, shelter and basic health services for the more vulnerable sectors of the community during the bitter cold of winter months.

(Mrs. Hassan, Egypt)

My delegation joins in the appeal made by the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Eliasson, and urges the donor countries and international institutions to provide the necessary aid needed to mitigate the suffering of the Afghani people, particularly since many parts of the country face a bitter winter.

Next to the need to meet the requirements of emergency assistance, there is an equally urgent need for direct reconstruction assistance. In this regard, we support the study on the reconstruction of Afghanistan prepared by the Islamic Bank for Construction within the framework of the Islamic Conference's efforts and wish to highlight the need for coordination of the Conference's efforts and those of the Secretary-General and call for further cooperation between the two organizations.

In this connection, we wish to support the leading role played by the Secretary-General in working for the continuance and promotion of humanitarian programmes and economic assistance to Afghanistan.

We also think it may be useful if the Secretary-General were to dispatch a team of experts to evaluate the damage and devastation caused by the war and to prepare a comprehensive report on an integrated plan that would include the requirements for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. This should be followed by a call for a meeting of the donor States and international financial institutions to mobilize the financial and technical resources needed for the implementation of the plan.

We are confident that the Government and people of Afghanistan will be able, with our collective support, to rise to the challenges facing them in working for peace and progress.

(Mrs. Hassan, Egypt)

My country, for its part, is fully prepared to cooperate in and to support the discharge of this very difficult task.

Egypt supports the draft resolution on emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and we call on all Member States to adopt it by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that action on draft resolution A/47/L.25/Rev.1 is being postponed to a later date, to be announced in the Journal, in order to give the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee time to review the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.